

Global fishery upgrades from WSUS to cloud-native patch management



BIOGRAPHY

Company: Cooke, Inc.

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Job Title: Director of IT Operations, Cooke, Inc.

SOLUTIONS UTILIZED



OS Patching



Software Patching



Manage Third Party Software



Manage Endpoint Configuration

ABOUT COOKE

Cooke, Inc. is a major player in the aquaculture and wild fishery market. What began as a small family business 35 years ago is now a global seafood leader with fully integrated facilities, product lines and distribution networks. Cooke operates in nine countries and harvests more than 17 core species of fish, all with a focus on delivering superior products in a safe, environmentally sustainable way..

CHALLENGE

Cooke started small, but over the past 11 years has grown substantially, mostly through acquisition. Currently the company has 130 connected offices globally with approximately 2,000 endpoints that are all standardized from an infrastructure standpoint. Originally, we really didn't have a patch management strategy. Every computer in the world was pointed at the Windows update store and people updated when they wanted to. We added WSUS, and that was fine until the acquisitions started and we quickly lost control of the configuration. We planned to roll out SCCM and put WSUS update servers everywhere in the environment. But around that time, we acquired a couple of companies that used SCCM and we discovered how burdensome it was from a resource perspective.

We weren't confident that we were getting patches to everyone. Application deployment was a massive headache. We had no visibility into installed applications. It was clear we needed something better.

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Director of IT Operations
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SOLUTION

When we built out our use cases, our two biggest requirements were patch management and application deployment. We needed the ability to inventory and see what we had in the environment as well as deploy patches and applications on a global scale. Although Cooke is traditionally an on-prem shop, we had recently adopted a few cloud-based solutions for endpoint protection and remote management, so cloud-native patch management made sense.

When I came across Automox, it seemed like a natural fit. Sometimes cloud-based applications are just better; you don't have to manage the infrastructure, you get the latest and greatest features and you don't have to deal with the headaches of maintaining it. Our initial communication with Automox was great and it was fast and simple to get spun up. I pulled up the [Automox] console, worked with my IT team to install the agent across endpoints, and we started pushing patches and trying applications. It was that easy.

RESULTS & BENEFITS

One of the most dramatic changes that we've seen using Automox is the amount of time that we've regained. When we used SCCM and WSUS, it took a tremendous amount of time for the team to do localized update servers, roll out new VMs, get those servers working, get the collections moved around, you name it.

Patch management went from something that we were constantly working on and complaining about to something that we check on every couple of weeks. We don't do a lot of care and feeding, we're not worried about it, we're not stressed about it. It just works and frees us up to do other things. For instance, we have the system automated so that anything that's marked as high or critical just auto-deploys. We don't touch it at all. The time savings translates to financial savings. Automox has given me at least half of an FTE back as far as availability to work on other things.

Cost savings come from reducing vulnerability and our security footprint as well. Automox has definitely helped us minimize our attack surface. Reports are coming in cleaner, with fewer critical things, and less panic. It has reduced our worry around patching and increased our ability to do patch management successfully.

ABOUT AUTOMOX

Automox is a cloud-based patch management and endpoint protection platform that provides the foundation for a strong security framework by automating the fundamentals of security hygiene to reduce a company's attack surface by over 80 percent. A powerful set of user-defined controls enables IT managers to filter and report on the vulnerability status of their infrastructure and intuitively manage cross-platform OS patching, third party patching, software deployment, and configuration management.